

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 PC-01 AID-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /109 W
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R 181440Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4623
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5784

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GH
SUBJ: GOVERNMENTAL SHAKE-UP CONTINUES WITH REMOVAL OF HEAD OF
POLICE FORCE

1. SUMMARY: INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE AKO IS HIGHEST
RANKING OFFICIAL YET TO FALL IN THE CONTINUING PURGE OF GOVERN-
MENT OFFICIALS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY NEW ADMINISTRATION.
HIS REMOVAL RAISES QUESTION OF HOW HIGH PURGE WILL EXTEND
IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THOSE UNDERTAKING IT ARE THEMSELVES
INTIMATELY CONNECTED WITH ACHEAMPONG REGIME.

2. CONTINUING ITS PROCESS OF GRADUAL BUT STEADY HOUSE-
CLEANING, NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS NOW REACHED INTO THE HIGHEST
GOVERNMENTAL BODY, THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL, TO DISMISS
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE ERNEST AKO, WHO IS REPLACED
"WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT" BY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE MR. B.S.K.
KWAYKE, WHO BECOMES NEW INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE WITH
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SEAT ON SMC. REMOVAL OF AKO, ONE OF THE MORE NOTORIOUSLY
CORRUPT MEMBERS OF SMC WAS WIDELY EXPECTED; THE RUMOR MILL
WHICH IS GRINDING OVERTIME THESE DAYS, HAS IT THAT BORDER
GUARDE COMMANDER UTUKA OR POSSIBLY EVEN CHIEF OF DEFENSE
STAFF KOTEI WILL BE NEXT TO GO. THIS HOWEVER IS UNCERTAIN
AT THIS POINT; SINCE THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT ON JULY 5
GEN AKUFFO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN USING KOTEI AS HIS RIGHT-

HAND MAN AND MAKES CERTAIN HE IS PRESENT AT
MOST HIGH LEVEL
MEETINGS. MUCH WILL DEPEND, WE SUSPECT, ON WHAT PRESSURES
DEVELOP FROM THE MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL AND FROM THE OTHER
NEW MEMBER OF THE SMC, ARMY COMMANDER ODARTEY-WELLINGTON.

3. KWAKYE IS A 50 YEAR OLD CAREER POLICE OFFICER WHO JOINED
THE SERVICE IN 1946 AND WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF COMMISSIONER
LAST AUGUST. ADDITIONAL BIO WILL FOLLOW.

4. COMMENT: REMOVAL OF AKO FOLLOWS CABINET CHANGES OF
JULY 12 (ACCRA 5614), SHAKE-UP IN PRESS LEADERSHIP (ACCRA 5644),
SHUFFLING OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS (USDAO ACCRA IR 6 835 0230 78)
AND, MOST RECENTLY, SUMMARY REMOVAL JULY 14 OF HEADS OF STATE
HOUSING CORPORATION AND NATIONAL PROCUREMENT AGENCY. SMC
IS THUS MOVING STEP BY STEP TO CHANGE PERSONNEL AS IT ATTEMPTED
TO IMPLEMENT NEW POLICIES IN ECONOMIC AND OTHER FILEDS
(YESTERDAY FOR EXAMPLE, IN MEETING WITH HEADS OF THE
UNIVERSITIES, SMC RESCINDED EARLIER DEMAND FOR DISTASTEFUL
LOYALTY OATHS FROM FACULTIES AND STUDENTS WHICH PROBABLY
WOULD HAVE PREVENTED OPENING OF UNIVERSITIES LATER THIS
MONTH). AKUFFO APPEARS TO BE TRYING TO MAKE RADICAL, HUT
ORDERLY CHANGES IN POLICIES AND SOME PERSONNEL WHILE MAIN-TAINING
BASIC CONTINUITY OF SMC WHICH LED COUNTRY TO
ITS PRESENT SORRY STATE. WHETHER THIS WILL SATISFY OPPOSITION
ELEMENTS, AND, MORE ESPECIALLY, MEMBERS OF MILITARY ADVISORY
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COUNCIL, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IT IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY
DIFFICULT PATH HE IS ATTEMPTING TO FOLLOW. AND LOOMING
ON THE HORIZON IS THE SPECTER OF WHAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
BECOME INCREASINGLY VOCAL DEMANDS FOR INVESTIGATIONS (AND
PRESUMABLY PROSECUTION) OF ACHEAMPONG, AKO AND OTHER TOP
LEADERS OF PREVIOUS REGIME WITH WHOM HOLDOVER MEMBERS OF
SMC, INCLUDING AKUFFO HIMSELF, WERE INTIMATELY INVOLVED.
HOLMES

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